GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1886
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2003
CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE FOR RABI CAMPAIGN
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign 2003-04 has recently held;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the salient features of the discussion held and decision arrived at;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any target for the production foodgrain during the current kharif season; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)to(d): The National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign − 2003-2004 was held on29th and 30th September, 2003 at New Delhi. The Conference discussed in detail the strategies for Rabi − 2003-04 season including cropping plan and availability of key inputs for different crops in different States. The Conference provided an opportunity to States to share their experiences and efforts being made to increase production and productivity of different crops which assumes importance in the context of doubling food production and farmers` income. The Conference also addressed inter-alia the issues of credit flow to the Agriculture Sector, farm income insurance, contract farming, market reforms and update on WTO negotiations at Cancun. The Conference also addressed the need for evolving appropriate strategy to cope with the problems likely to be encountered in the near future in respect of States which had experienced deficient rainfall in some parts of the Southern States and Maharashtra.

The food production during Kharif 2003 season is estimated at 108.45 million tonnes which represents an increase of about 18 million tonnes over last year`s production of 90.48 million tonnes. For the current Rabi season, a target of 108.32 million tonnes of food production has been fixed.